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LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

5   **CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A system for providing real-time communication over a global network in a session between two or more users, each of said two or more users using a device communicatively coupled to the global network, said system comprising:

10   a client messaging application which runs on each of said the users' devices, said client messaging application providing a user interface displayed on each of said user's device screens, said user interface comprising:

             a message entry window for a the user to enter data;

             a communication window for displaying messages entered in a said
15   session; and

             means a selection window for accessing one or more application agents, each of said one or more application agents which being associated to an external application;

             wherein when any of said one or more application agents is activated, the
20   said external application represented by said one or more activated application agents is displayed on said user device screens in conjunction with runs on top of the said client messaging application such that said two or more all users in said session can instantly use the said external application represented by said activated application agent without leaving said session.

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2. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said external application is either a local application in <u>any of said</u> ~~the~~ user'~~s~~ device<u>s</u> or a third party service on the global network.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 2, wherein said third party service on the
5   global network is any of:

an instant translation service;

a speech synthesis service;

an automatic publishing service;

a picture sharing service;

10   a map sharing service;

a quote service; and

a Web search engine.

4. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said activated application agent addresses ~~other~~ <u>said external</u> applications on <u>an</u> ~~the~~ other side
15   of said session via <u>a</u> ~~the user's~~ message protocol.

5. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 4, wherein ~~the~~ data transferred via ~~the~~ <u>said</u> ~~user's~~ message protocol for addressing ~~other~~ <u>said external</u> applications on ~~the~~ <u>said</u> other side of said session is a sequence of characters that represents binary data.

20   6. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said ~~means~~ <u>selection</u> <u>window</u> for accessing one or more application agents further comprises:

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one or more ~~means for displaying a plurality of~~ distinct visual cues, each of which being representative of one of said application agents; and

said ~~means for associating~~ one or more ~~of said~~ distinct visual cues shown in association with ~~to~~ a contact in ~~the~~ a ~~user's~~ contact list of a user, said

5   association ~~being~~ based on ~~the~~ said user's prior use ~~or/and use frequency, with said contact,~~ of the said application agents with said contact ~~represented by said visual cues.~~

7. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 6, wherein whenever said contact joins said session, ~~the~~ said application agents represented by said one or more

10   ~~associated~~ distinct visual cues associated with said contact ~~is~~ are automatically activated.

8. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 6, wherein any of said application agents can be registered as a contact in said contact ~~the user's~~ list of said user ~~contacts~~ to create registered application agents.

15   9. (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein at least one of said registered application agents is associated to an interactive service.

10. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein one or more of said ~~any other~~ registered application agents can be run in conjunction with said interactive service associated with said at least one ~~stacked on said~~ registered

20   application agent ~~associated to the interactive service.~~

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said selection window displays any of:

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a list of unregistered application agents, each of <u>said unregistered</u> <u>application agents</u> ~~which~~ being available to be ~~stacked on~~ <u>registered</u> <u>with</u> said client messaging application; and

a list of registered application agents<u>, each of said registered application</u>

5   <u>agents being,</u> ~~each of which being already stacked on said client messaging~~ ~~application and is~~ immediately available to be activated by <u>a</u> ~~the~~ user.

13. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ <u>said</u> user can register <u>said unregistered</u> ~~an~~ application agent by dragging a symbol representative of said <u>unregistered</u> application agent from said list of

10   unregistered application agents to said list of registered application agents.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein said symbol is an icon or a title.

15. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ <u>said</u> user can unregister a registered application agent by dragging a symbol representative of said <u>registered</u> application agent from said list of registered application agents to

15   said list of unregistered application agents.

16. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ <u>said</u> user can register an <u>unregistered</u> application agent by applying one or more mouse-clicking commands.

17. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ <u>said</u> user can

20   activate a registered application agent by dragging a symbol representative of said <u>registered</u> application agent from said selection window to said communication window.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein said symbol is an icon or a title.

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19. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ said user can activate a registered application agent by applying one or more mouse-clicking commands.

20. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ said user can
5   activate a registered application agent from a local application ~~represented by registered application agent~~.

21. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 13, further comprising:

means for associating an alias of said symbol to a contact in ~~the~~ said user's contact list, said association ~~being~~ based on ~~the~~ said user's prior use
10   ~~or/and use frequency,~~ with said contact, of said ~~the~~ application agent represented by said symbol.

22. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein said list of unregistered application agents is automatically updated ~~without need of changing~~ by said client messaging application.

15   23. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, further comprising:

wherein a user invites ~~means for inviting~~ another user to activate one of said application agents in ~~the~~ said session.

24. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said user interface further comprises:

20   a symbol for selection by a user to initiat~~e~~ing synchronous sharing of a third party service represented by an activated application agent.

25. (Currently amended) A method for incorporating external resources into an instant messaging session supported by an instant messaging system, said

instant messaging system comprising a client messaging application which runs on a number of devices communicatively coupled to the Internet, comprising the steps of:

5   said client messaging application providing a user interface displayed on each device's screen from which a the user[s] communicate[s] with each other users, said user interface comprising a message entry window for said the user to enter data, a communication window for displaying messages entered in said instant messaging a session, and a selection window for accessing one or more application agents, each of said application agents being associated to an

10   external application, the method further comprising the steps of:

     activating a registered application agent from a list of registered application agents, wherein each of said registered application agents is stacked on said client messaging application and is instantly available to be activated by the said user; and

15   sharing the said external application to which said activated application agent is associated with other users in said instant messaging session.

26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 25, wherein said external application is either a local application in the user's any of said devices communicatively coupled to the Internet or a third party service on the Internet.

20   27. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein said third party service on the Internet is any of:

     an instant translation service;

     a speech synthesis service;

     an automatic publishing service;

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a picture sharing service;

a map sharing service;

a quote service; and

a Web search engine.

5   28. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein at least one of said registered application agents is associated to an interactive service.

29. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [24] [25], further comprising the steps of:

registering an unregistered application agent by dragging a symbol
10   representative of said unregistered application agent from a list of unregistered application agents to said list of registered application agents, wherein each of said unregistered application agents is available to be stacked on registered with said client messaging application; and

unregistering a registered application agent by dragging a symbol
15   representative of said registered application agent from said list of registered application agents to said list of unregistered application agents.

30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 25 further comprising the steps of:

registering an unregistered application agent by applying a number of mouse-clicking commands; and

20   unregistering a registered application agent by applying a number of mouse-clicking commands.

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31. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [24] [25], further comprising the step of:

associating one or more ~~of~~ visual cues to a contact in a ~~the user's~~ contact list of a user; each of said one or more visual cues representing one of said

5   registered application agents, said association ~~being~~ based on ~~the~~ said user's prior use or/~~and~~ use frequency, with said contact, of said registered ~~the~~ application agents ~~represented by said visual cues~~.

32. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 31, further comprising the step of:

automatically activating said registered ~~the~~ application agents represented

10 by said associated visual cues whenever said contact joins said instant messaging session.

33. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 31, wherein said contact can be any of:

a screen name representing a human contact;

15 a name or a visual cue representing an interactive service; and

a name or a visual cue representing one of said registered application agents.

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